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12 October 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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12 October 1966

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CONTENTS

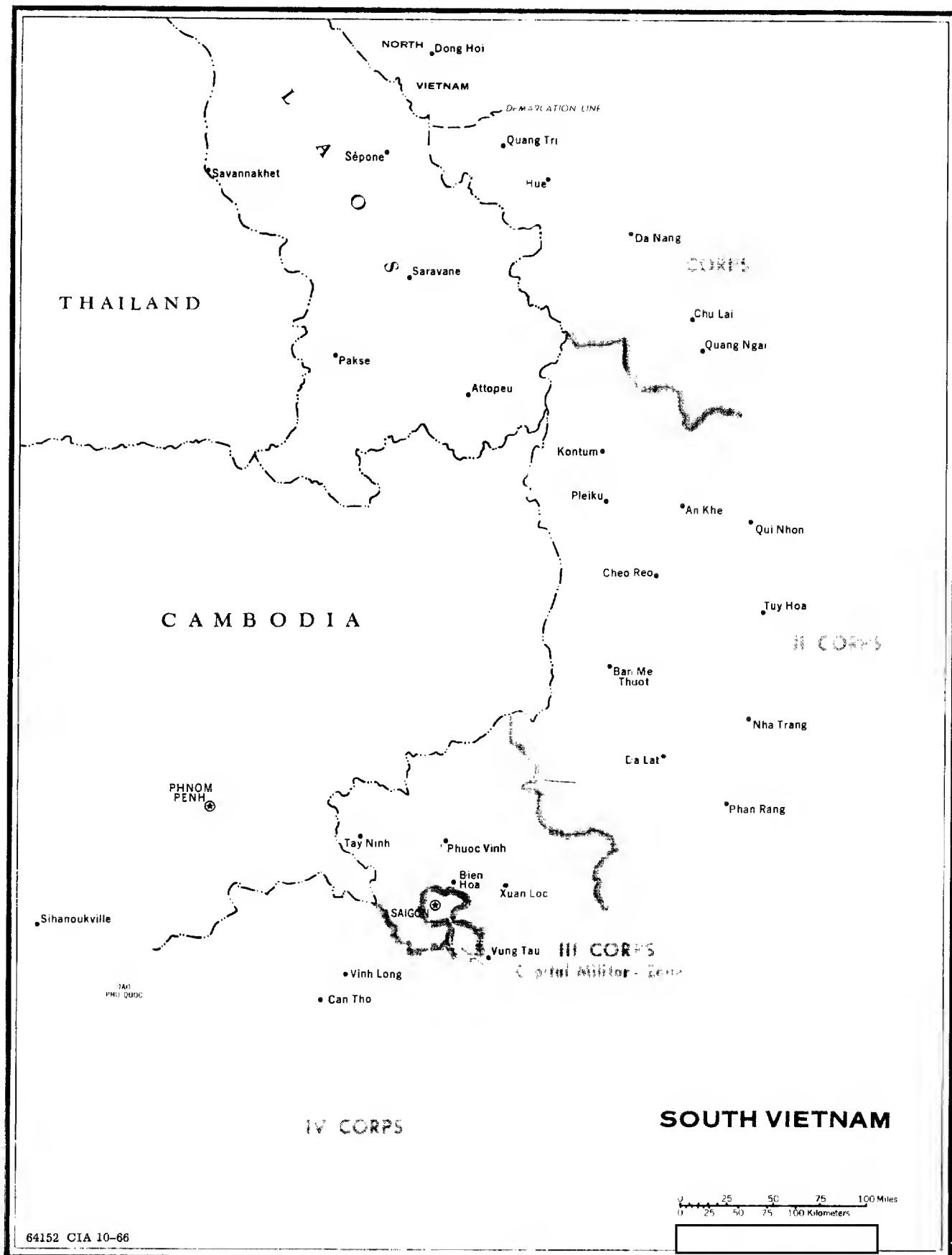
1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

25X1

3. Nigeria: Country relatively quiet as tribal minorities continue to move to home regions. (Page 4)

4. Laos: Dissolution of National Assembly a victory for Premier Souvanna. (Page 5)

5. Notes: Mexico; Barbados. (Page 6)



25X1

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

12 October 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Situation in South Vietnam: Premier Ky apparently has moved to placate disaffected southerners in his cabinet.

Ky appointed a southern Catholic yesterday to replace Nguyen Ba Kha as Secretary of State for Health. Kha, a northerner, had been under fire for alleged heavy-handed treatment of southern political elements. In appointing a southerner to fill Kha's post, Ky probably hopes to persuade six southern ministers to withdraw resignations which they submitted last week.

Military Situation in South Vietnam: The Viet Cong launched several attacks against small South Vietnamese outposts in the Mekong delta area yesterday.

The largest action was against a government post defended by a platoon of irregular troops some 20 miles south of Saigon. Pre-dawn mortar and grenade attacks were also made against six other delta outposts. In two instances air strikes were called in to support the friendly positions. Casualties were reported light on both sides in the fighting. (Map)

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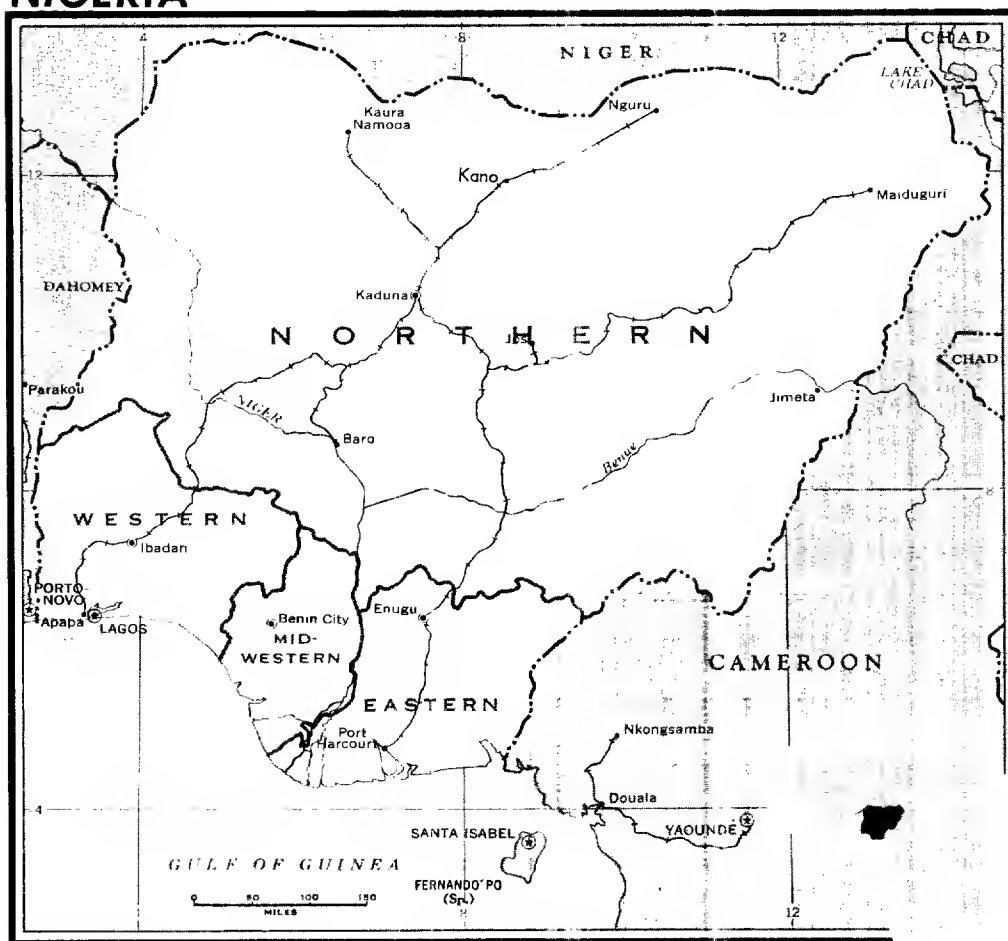
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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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NIGERIA



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Nigeria: An uneasy quiet has settled over most of the country as the return of tribal minorities to their home regions continues.

The massive population shift, involving the exodus of more than 100,000 Easterners from the North alone, is gradually reshaping Nigeria into a group of de facto tribal states. In the previously untroubled Mid-West region, fearful Ibo tribesmen are fleeing to the East. Eastern Military Governor Ojukwu's decree ordering all non-Easterners out of his region is apparently causing resettlement problems in other parts of the country. Communal frictions are especially acute along the border between the Northern and Eastern regions.

The restoration of army discipline over unruly Northern troops remains the government's most immediate problem. In Kano, where troops not only joined civilians in slaughtering Ibos but also mutinied against their officers, the government has taken steps to restore discipline. It is unlikely, however, that the Kano battalion--one of the five at the government's disposal--can be made into a trustworthy unit again.

In a further effort to stabilize the situation, Supreme Commander Gowon has scheduled a meeting on 14 October of the Supreme Military Council, which includes all the military governors. Earlier efforts by Gowon to convene the body, which was established by the Ironsi regime, foundered on Ojukwu's refusal to travel to Lagos. At present there is no indication that Ojukwu, who has been acting with increasing independence, and yesterday refused to acknowledge Gowon's authority, plans to attend.

Meanwhile, consultations on a new constitutional formula are in progress in each of the four regions. The constitutional talks are scheduled to reconvene in Lagos on 24 October. [REDACTED]

25X1

12 Oct 66

4

Laos: The dissolution of the National Assembly by King Savang marks a victory for Premier Souvanna in his conflict with the legislature.

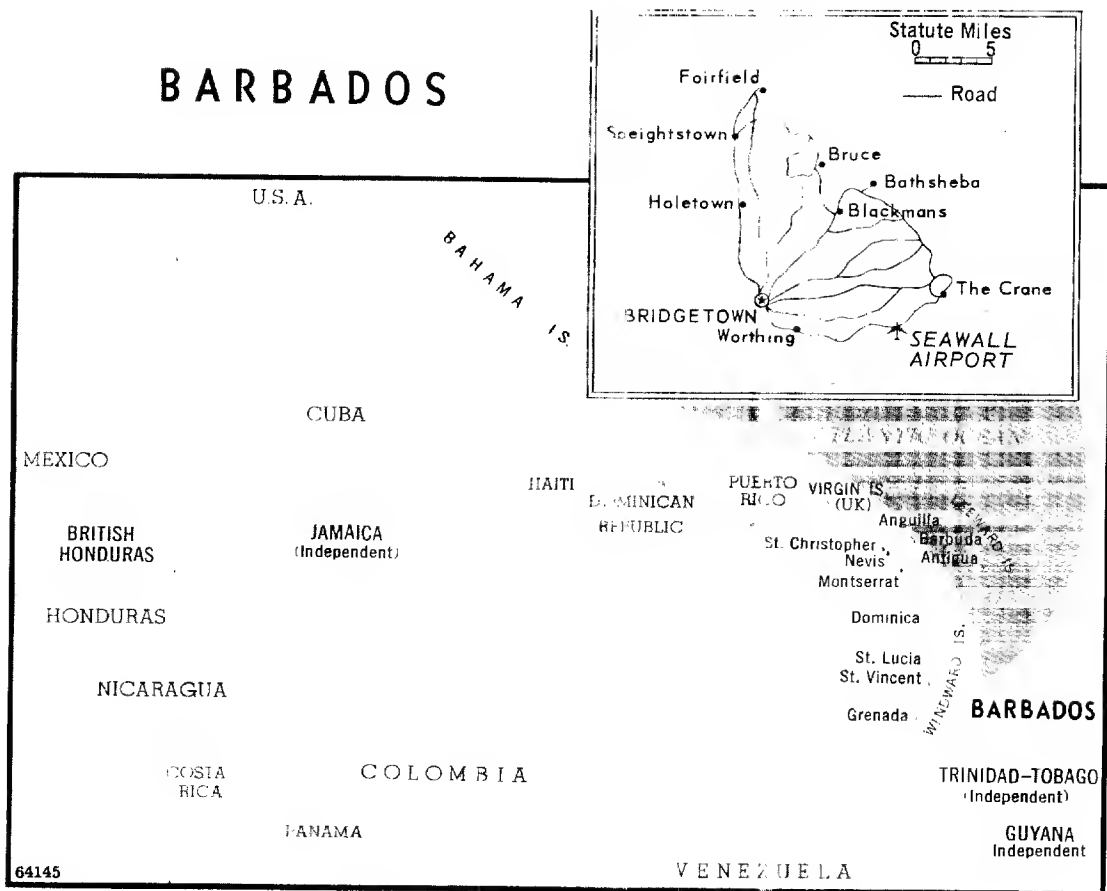
The immediate reason for the King's decree was the assembly's rejection of the government's proposed budget on 16 September. Souvanna, however, had long been scornful of the deputies' "ineptness" and had opposed demands by some rightist deputies for vacant cabinet posts.

An intensive period of political maneuvering is likely before the elections, which are tentatively scheduled for 1 January. The character of the next assembly will be influenced by the election laws, which currently favor the rightists.

25X1

12 Oct 66

5



NOTES

Mexico:

25X1

25X1

25X1

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Evidence of Communist involvement in the Morelia disorders, including the identification of agitators trained in the USSR, Cuba, and Communist China, points up the central direction of the agitation as well as its national significance. The Morelia incident was the most recent in a chain of disturbances at various Mexican universities and of other tests of local authority. [redacted]
[redacted]

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Barbados: The Barbados Government has called a general election for 3 November, 27 days before the island receives its independence from Britain. Premier Barrow's moderate Democratic Labor Party (DLP) is heavily favored to increase its present majority in the legislature. DLP back-benchers have been pressuring Barrow to hold the election prior to independence so that he will be prime minister-designate rather than a lame-duck premier, and to protect their own seats. [redacted]
[redacted]

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12 Oct 66

6

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